

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CARACA 04808 140608Z
ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00
SP-02 NEA-07 EB-04 AF-04 PRS-01 L-01 PM-03
DODE-00 OES-02 EUR-08 ACDA-10 /073 W
-----141527Z 126549 /44

R 131902Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7636

CONFIDENTIAL CARACAS 4808

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, VE
SUBJECT: CONVERSATION BETWEEN PRESIDENT PEREZ AND ASSISTANT
SECRETARY TODMAN

1. SUMMARY. ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN MET WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ FOR OVER AN HOUR, WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ESCOVAR PRESENT DURING THE CONVERSATION. IN THE WIDE RANGING DISCUSSION, PRESIDENT PEREZ EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH HIS MIDDLE EAST TRIP, SUPPORTED THE US STAND ON NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION, EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER SPREAD OF SOVIET INFLUENCE IN AFRICA AND OPINED THAT THE US MUST CONFRONT THAT SPREAD BY INSURING CLEAR US SUPPORT FOR BLACK AFRICA, REVIEWED THE SITUATION IN THE HEMISPHERE EXPRESSING OPTIMISM WITH REGARD TO PERU, AND CONCERN REGARDING DEVELOPMENTS IN BRAZIL AND ARGENTINA; EXPRESSED AT LENGTH HIS CONCERN AT THE SITUATION IN THE CARIBBEAN LABELING BELIZE A PARTICULARLY DANGEROUS SITUATION AND STATING THAT VENEZUELA WOULD GLADLY CONSIDER COOPERATING WITH THE US REGARDING ASSISTANCE TO JAMAICA. THE PRESIDENT ALSO INDICATED EAGER ANTICIPATION FOR HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND REQUESTED THE DATE BE MOVED ONE DAY EARLIER (SEE SEPTTEL) END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT PEREZ BEGAN THE CONVERSATION BY EXPRESSING HIS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CARACA 04808 140608Z

PLEASURE AT THE STATE OF US-VENEZUELAN RELATIONS. ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN NOTED THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES SHARED COMMON PERCEPTIONS AND CONVICTIONS REGARDING SUCH FUNDAMENTALS AS HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY, THE NEEDS OF THE POORER COUNTRIES. THE PRESIDENT AGREED AND SAID ALL VENEZUELANES WERE DELIGHTED WITH THE LEADERSHIP TAKEN BY PRESIDENT CARTER IN THESE MATTERS, AND THAT VENEZUELA STOOD BY THE US ON SUCH TINGS. IN THE WIDE RANGING

CONVERSATION THAT FOLLOWED, THE PRINCIPAL POINTS COVERED BY PRESIDENT PEREZ WERE AS FOLLOWS:

3. MIDDLE EAST TRIP. THE PRESIDENT SAID HE WAS VERY PLEASED WITH HIS TRIP, THE MAIN PURPOSE OF WHICH WAS TO STRENGTHEN VENEZUELA'S TIES AND UNDERSTANDING WITH THE ARAB STATES AND TO INSURE THAT OPEC'S UNITY WAS NOT DISRUPTED. HE WAS PARTICULARLY HAPPY TO NOTE THAT WHAT HAD BEEN SOME TENSION BETWEEN SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN HAD NOW BEEN OVERCOME AND HE BELIEVED HIS VISIT MAY HAVE HELPED. THE PRICE ISSUE WAS ON ITS WAY TO SOLUTION AND UNDERSTANDING ON A NUMBER OF OTHER ITEMS SUCH AS THE SPECIAL FUND WAS DEEPENED. THE ISRAEL PROBLEM WAS OBVIOUSLY A MAJOR ISSUE AND DANGER WHICH HAD TO BE SOLVED IF THE PEACE OF THE WORLD WAS TO BE MAINTAINED. ASKED IF IT WAS POSSIBLE TO SOLVE IT, THE PRESIDENT SAID HE BELIEVED SO. SAUDI ARABIA, IRAN, JORDAN, QUATAR, THE EMIRATES, SYRIA WERE ALL WILLING TO REACH A REASONABLE SOLUTION AND WOULD WORK FOR IT. LIBYA AND IRAQ WERE HARD LINERS BUT WOULD BE BROUGHT INTO LINE. THE QUESTION WAS WHETHER ISRAEL WOULD REMAIN INFLEXIBLE AND ADAMANT.

4. NUCLEAR-NON-PROLIFERATION. THE PRESIDENT MADE A SPECIAL POINT OF EXPRESSING HIS SOLIDARITY WITH PRESIDENT CARTER'S POSITION ON THIS ISSUE. THE DANGER OF PROLIFERATION WAS AWESOME, AND ESPECIALLY IN THIS HEMISPHERE. HE SAID HE WANTED TO TALK TO ARGENTINA ABOUT ITS PLANS, SITUATION, AND WILLINGNESS TO SIGN SAFEGUARDS. HE WAS ALSO GOING TO TALK TO PRESIDENT VIDELA ABOUT ARGENTINA'S RATIFYING THE TLATELOLCO TREATY.

5. AFRICA. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT ON HIS MIDDLE EASTERN TRIP HE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CARACA 04808 140608Z

BECAME AWARE OF THE TREMENDOUS APPREHENSION OF THE ARAB STATES OVER THE SPREAD OF SOVIET INFLUENCE AND PRESENCE INTO AFRICA. HE BELIEVED THIS TO BE A DANGEROUS DEVELOPMENT, AND IN HIS OPINION THE US COULD NO LONGER SIMPLY STAND ASIDE. IT HAD TO CONFRONT THE SPREAD OF SOVIET INFLUENCE BY INCREASING ITS OWN AND MAKE CLEAR US SUPPORT FOR THE BLACK STATES. HE REMEMBERED AFRICAN LEADERS IN THE PAST TELLING HIM THAT THEY WERE NOT COMMUNIST BUT THAT ONLY THE USSR SUPPORTED THEM IN WORLD DORA. THIS MORAL AND IDEOLOGICAL LEADERSHIP ON THE PART OF THE US WAS ESSENTIAL. HE NOTED THAT THAT WAS PRECISELY WHAT CASTRO WAS DOING, I.E. SEEKING TO CHAMPION THE BLACK CAUSE, AND NOT TO INCREASE HIS POWER IN AFRICA BUT IN THE CARIBBEAN. HE SAID HE HAD BEEN ASSURED BY A CASTRO EMISSARY HOWEVER THAT CUBA HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE INSURGENT INVASION OF ZAIRE.

6. CARIBBEAN. HIS GREATEST CONCERN, THE PRESIDENT SAID, WAS WITH REGARD TO THE CARIBBEAN. THE PROBLEMS OF POVERTY AND SOCIAL TENSION WERE TREMENDOUS. IF THESE NATIONS WERE TO HAVE SOME ALTERNATIVE TO FALLING INTO THE CUBAN OR SOVIET

ORBIT, GREATER ATTENTION WOULD HAVE TO BE GIVEN TO THE AREA. HE SAID THAT IN JAMAICA IN PARTICULAR, WISE HANDLING, UNDERSTANDING AND HELP COULD EXTRACT THAT COUNTRY FROM CASTRO'S TIGHTENING GRASP. BECAUSE OF GEOGRAPHICAL PROPINQUITY AND OTTER CONNECTING INTERESTS THERE WOULD ALWAYS BE SOME CONTACT WITH CUBA, BUT MANLEY WOULD LIKE TO GET CLOSER TO THE US.

7. ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN NOTED THAT A US TEAM HAD JUST RETURNED FROM JAMAICA AND THAT WE WOULD BE PUTTING TOGETHER A PROPOSAL FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. THE IMF, CANADA AND GREAT BRITAIN WERE WILLING TO HELP. PERHAPS VENEZUELA COULD ALSO ASSIST. PRESIDENT PEREZ SAID THAT HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO CONSIDER HELPING WITH REGARD TO ANY SUCH COORDINATED PLAN, AND SECRETARY TODMAN INDICATED WE WOULD COMMUNICATE FURTHER WHEN OUTLINES OF A PROPOSAL HAD BEEN FURTHER DEVELOPED.

8. THE PRESIDENT EXPRESSED SPECIAL ALRM ABOUT THE BELIZE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 CARACA 04808 140608Z

SITUATION WHICH HE THOUGHT WAS VERY DANGEROUS. IF GUATEMALA UNDERTOOK ANY ARMED INCURSION EITHER GREAT BRITAIN WOULDHAVE TO INTERVENE OR CUBA WOULD. HE HAD MADE EVERY EFFORT TO PRESSURE GUATEMALA INTO A REASONABLE ACCEPTANCE OF REALITY. HE THOUGHT THIS WHOLE PROBLEM AND THE MOVE TO INDEPENDENCE PRESENTED POTENTIAL FOR REAL TROUBLE AND CONFLICT.

9. PANAMA. THE PRESIDENT SAID HE HOPED THE DISCUSSION WERE GOING WELL, AND SECRETARY TODMAN NOTED THAT THEY HAD RESUMED THE PREVIOUS DAY BUT THAT HE HAD NO REPORT ON THEM. HE NOTED TORRIJOS' REMARK IN MEXICO, AND PRESIDENT PEREZ SAID THAT THE GENERAL WAS UNPREDICTABLE AND IMPULSIVE. THE PRESIDENT SAID HE HAD BEEN MOST PLEASED WITH HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH AMBASSADORS BUNKER AND LINOWITZ.

10. LATIN AMERICA. IN A TOUR D'HORIZON PRESIDENT PEREZ EXPRESSED THE BELIEV THAT THERE WERE SPREADING POINTS OF TENSION WITHIN THE COMPLICATED BRAZILIAN INTERNAL SCENE AND HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT WOULD HAPPEN THERE. HE WAS ANXIOUS TO TALK TO VIDELA ABOUT ARGENTINA. HIS FEELING WAS THAT VIDELA SHOULD BE SUPPORTED AND THAT WAS WHY HE INVITED HIM. VIDELA WAS MODERATE, DEDICATED AND HE BELIEVED HIM TO BE THE BEST WAY BACK TO MODERATE
A
D DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT. CHILE WOULD HAVE TO GO THROUGH TRAVAIL, URUGUAY WAS "INEXPLICABLE" AND WHAT COULD ONE SAY ABOUT PARAGRAY. HE THOUGHT THE SITUATION INTERNALLY IN PERU WAS VASTLY IMPROVED AND WAS ENCOURAGED THEREBY.
VAKY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CARACA04808
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770171-0402
Format: TEL
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770563/aaaacbvuu.tel
Line Count: 167
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 027f3895-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2541469
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONVERSATION BETWEEN PRESIDENT PEREZ AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN
TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, VE, US, (TODMAN, TERENCE A), (CARLOS ANDRES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/027f3895-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009